

Amendments to Specification

Page 48, amend the ABSTRACT to read as follows¹.

Featured are methods for fixing adjacent vertebrate of a spine that utilize ~~a new an~~ implant member, which preferably is arcuate. Preferred methods of the invention for stabilizing adjacent vertebrae of the spine, include forming an aperture in each of the adjacent vertebrae and inserting an implant into the apertures formed in each of the adjacent vertebrae so that the implant extends between the adjacent vertebrae and through the intervertebral space. An alternative method for fixing adjacent vertebrae of a spine includes the step of forming a common channel in and between the adjacent vertebrae and inserting an implant in the channel so as to bridge between the adjacent vertebrae. Also featured are methods for stabilizing adjacent segments of a bone, fixation systems and fixation kits.

¹ As indicated herein, also enclosed is the so amended Abstract on a separate sheet.